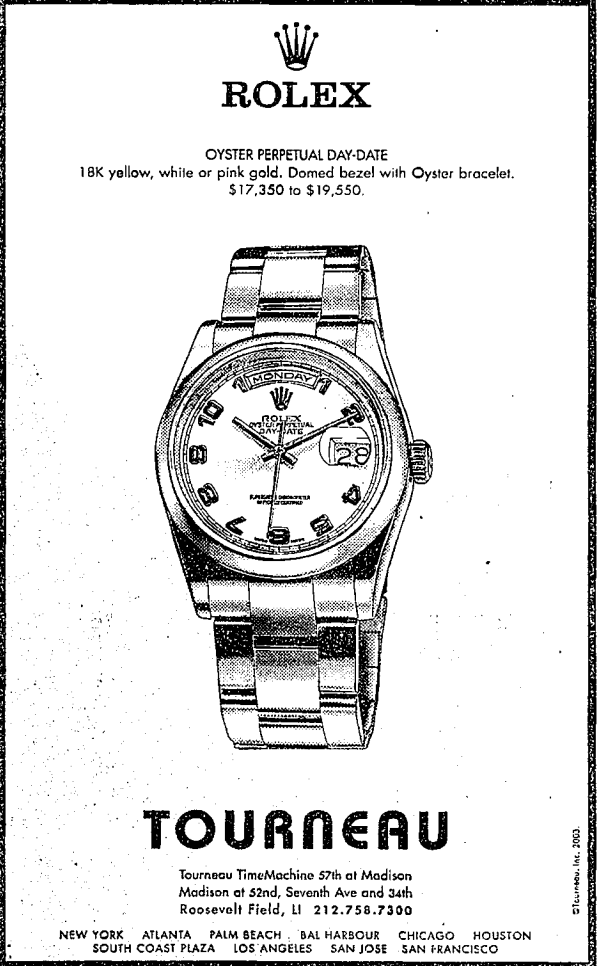


CHANEL

J12 AUTOMATIC

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ROLEX

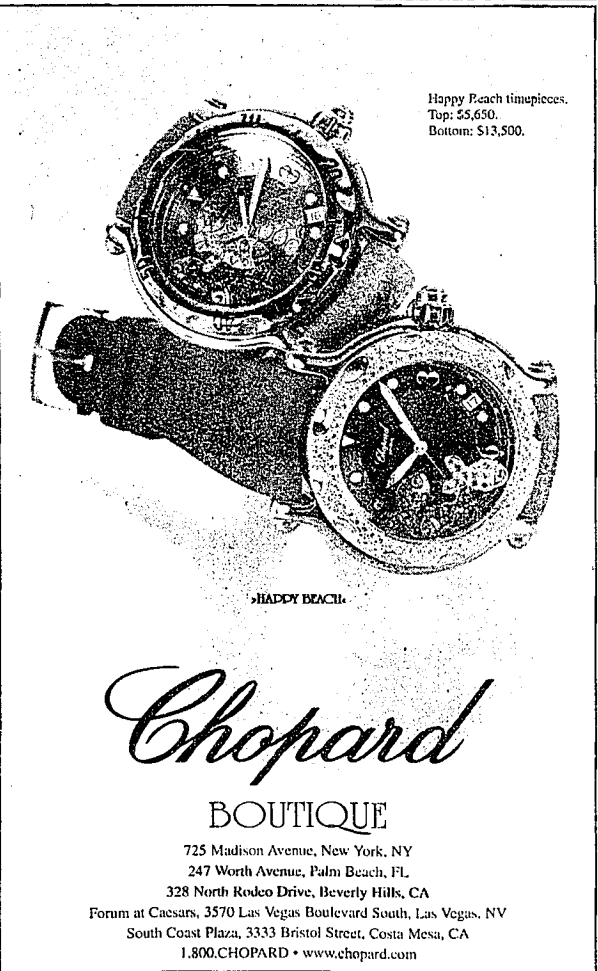
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18K yellow, white or pink gold. Domed bezel with Oyster bracelet. \$17,350 to \$19,550.

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NEW YORK ATLANTA PALM BEACH BAL HARBOR CHICAGO HOUSTON
SOUTH COAST PLAZA LOS ANGELES SAN JOSE SAN FRANCISCO



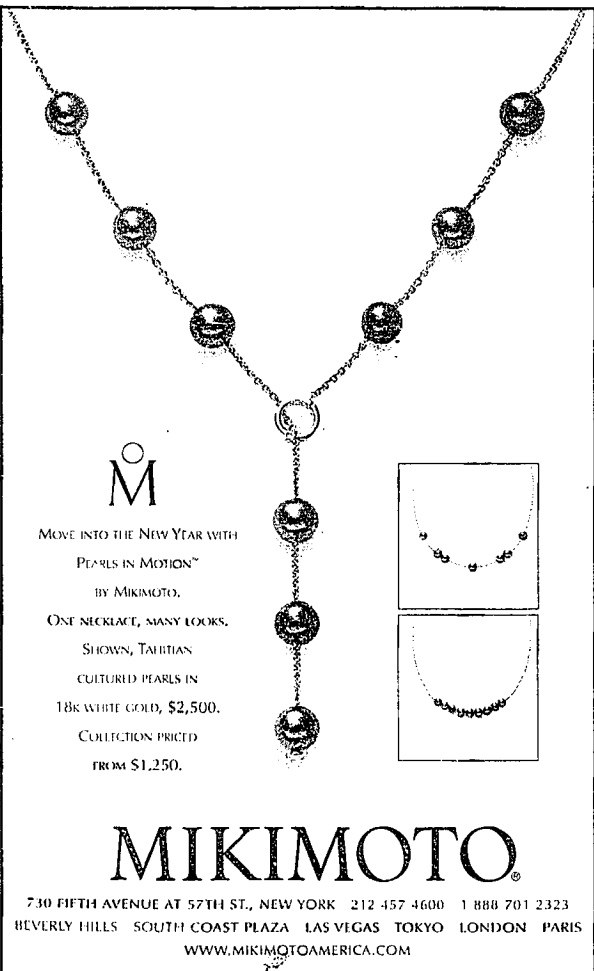
Happy Beach timepieces.
Top: \$5,650.
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15,000 Troops to Kuwait; Visible Signal to Hussein

The Army is sending thousands more soldiers to Kuwait in the largest single ground deployment to the Persian Gulf since the war in 1991, military officials said. The deployment is the latest visible signal to Saddam Hussein that the Bush administration is moving toward military action. A1

Bush on North Korea and Iraq

President Bush drew a distinction between North Korea and Iraq, saying he was certain that weapons projects in North Korea can be stopped "peacefully, through diplomacy." He said that Saddam Hussein, however, must disarm, or face military action. A1

North Korea May Drop Treaty

North Korea suggested that it would withdraw from a treaty that prohibits it from making nuclear weapons. If the North abandons the treaty, it would be under no obligation to allow inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency. A9

Palestinian Budget Radical

The Palestinian 2003 annual budget amounts to something revolutionary, with provisions that if enacted would have major consequences for the conduct of Palestinian governance and the Palestinian uprising. A8

Inquiry in Yemen Deaths

Yemeni investigators say they suspect the man thought to be the killer of three American missionaries at a Baptist hospital in Yemen has ties to Al Qaeda. A9

Turkey Amends Constitution

Turkey's president approved constitutional amendments that change a clause that bars those convicted of engaging in illegal "ideological and anarchic activities" from running for political office, opening the way for the country's most popular politician to become prime minister. A4

Zapatistas Stir in Mexico

The Zapatista rebels were stirring on the eve of the ninth anniversary of their armed uprising against the Mexican government and its free trade accord with the United States. Mexican government officials said reports of planned rebel actions were rife. A8

Chechnya Monitoring Ending

Russia announced that it would shut down the mission in Chechnya of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, ending any permanent international monitoring in the republic after the mission's mandate expires tonight. A5

French Detain Tipster

The French authorities have detained the man who alerted the police to a weapons cache in the car of an airport baggage handler at Paris's main international airport, officials said. The man, a former French soldier, is being questioned "to establish his credibility." A9

U.S. Soldier Shot by Pakistani

An American soldier wounded in the head was shot by a Pakistan border guard and the U.S. responded by calling in a coalition plane that bombed the area, the U.S. military said. A9

Nine States Challenge New Clean Air Regulations

Nine Northeast states filed a legal challenge in federal court to new pollution-related rules for power plants and other industrial polluters that were published hours before by the Bush administration. The state attorneys general said the rules constituted the most serious attempt at rolling back the landmark Clean Air Act since it was enacted more than 30 years ago. A1

Democrats Seek a Media Star

Influential Democrats, worried that their party has been outgunned in the political propaganda wars by conservative radio and television personalities, are scouring the nation for a liberal answer to Rush Limbaugh and the many others on the deep bench of Republican friends. A12

Ex-Teamster Battles Ban

William T. Hogan Jr., who was expelled from the Teamsters, is putting up a big fight against restrictions that ban current union members from associating with him. He is mounting a public relations battle and asking a federal judge to overrule the union's oversight board. A1

Daschle Eyes White House Bid

Tom Daschle, the Senate Democratic leader, has told associates that he is likely to run for president in 2004 and will create a presidential exploratory committee sometime this month, Democrats close to Mr. Daschle said. The move would sharply alter the dynamics of the crowded competition among Democrats to challenge President Bush. A13

California Water Talks Fall

Officials of Southern California water districts failed to reach a deal on the use of the Colorado River before a midnight deadline. As a result, the Bush administration said it would cut flows from the river to the state's cities and farms beginning this month, the first time the federal government will have impose such a penalty. A11

Health Care Crisis Averted

Hundreds of Pennsylvania doctors who were threatening to stop work or cut back on services because of the high cost of medical malpractice insurance appeared to have decided to stay at their posts after state officials promised to try to at least temporarily reduce their expenses. A13

Corrections

An article on Dec. 13 about a New Jersey State Senate committee's unanimous vote to abolish the position of poet laureate referred incorrectly to testimony on the issue. There was indeed dissent: one speaker, Ray Kalainikas, defended the current poet laureate, Amiri Baraka.

A film review in Weekend on Friday about "Chicago," based on Bob Fosse's 1975 musical, referred incorrectly to the 1979 Fosse film "All That Jazz." Its book included several lines from "Chicago" songs, not several of the songs.

An article in Arts & Ideas on Saturday about the revival of "De Organizer," a 1940 blues opera by James P.

New York Port Restricted; Warning of Possible Attack

The Coast Guard closed the Port of New York to pleasure craft and with the Police Department increased patrols in New York Harbor after receiving information from the federal authorities about a possible terrorist attack. Officials in New York played down the significance of the threat. B3

Express Bus Fares Rising

The fare on city-subsidized private express buses will rise to \$4 a ride from \$3 in April as part of a deal to preserve the service on weekends and holidays, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg announced. The city also won a 90-day reprieve from a Bronx bus company that had threatened to suspend express service. B1

Neediest Cases

B6

EDUCATION

B7

SPORTS

D1-7

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Skepticism for Clone Claim

Clonaid, the company that claims to have produced the first human clone has made astonishing claims before that were not substantiated, scientists and federal officials say. A13

Finding of More Autism

Autism is about 10 times as prevalent as it was in the 1980's, according to the country's largest study ever on the problem. Some of the increase is the result of widened definitions of the disorder, researchers say. A12

OBITUARIES

C10

ARTS

E1-24

Misgivings Over Trade Center

Architects have privately expressed reservations about the details of the designs for the World Trade Center site, the handling of the competition and the spotlight in which the contestants now stand. E1

QUOTATION OF THE DAY

“Most liberal talk shows are so, you know, milque-toast, who would want to listen to them? Conservatives are all fire and brimstone.”

HARRY THOMASON,
Hollywood producer. [A12]

BUSINESS DAY

C1-9

Another Down Year for Stocks

The stock markets declined for a third consecutive year, the first time that has happened in 60 years. Many investors are shocked by the depth of the current bear market and are more pessimistic than a year ago. C1

A Plan to Rescue Fiat

Roberto Colaninno, who engineered the hostile takeover of Telecom Italia, has proposed an \$8 billion plan to rescue the Fiat group. The plan could release General Motors from its obligation to buy 80 percent of Fiat Auto. C1

United Union Fights Wage Cut

The machinists' union at United Airlines opposes the airline's demand for wage concessions saying it has not been given enough financial information to make a decision. C4

Nets Ruled to Be Dolphin-Safe

The Commerce Department ruled that encircling dolphins with purse nets while catching tuna does not seriously harm dolphin populations, clearing the way for fisheries to advertise their tuna as dolphin-safe. C4

Business Digest

C1

World Business

W1

DINING

F1-6

EDITORIAL

A14-15

Editorials: New Year's time; backstage at the Pataki inaugural; taking harmless aim above; Francis X. Clines on ground zero.
Column: Bob Herbert.

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Because of an editing error, a letter in Circuits last Thursday about the Web's usefulness in rallying people to a cause misstated the position from which Trent Lott resigned last month. He was majority leader of the Senate, not the House.

The Times welcomes comments and suggestions, as well as information about errors that call for correction. Messages may be e-mailed to nytnews@nytimes.com or left at this toll-free number: 1-888-NYT-NEWS (1-888-698-6397). For comments on an editorial: letters@nytimes.com (by fax, 212-556-3622). For newspaper delivery questions: 1-800-NYT-NEWS (1-800-698-4637).